

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Special Meeting
February 7, 2008
Fish and Game Headquarters
Boise, Idaho**

Present in the Director's Office: Director Groen, Dallas Burkhalter, Deputy Attorney General; Sharon Kiefer, Legislative Liaison; and Mary Boyer, Executive Assistant.

A special meeting of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission was held by telephone conference. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wheeler with Commissioners Barowsky, Wright, Trevey, Mc Dermott, Power and Budge participating.

Dave Cadwallader, Clearwater Regional Supervisor; and Keith Lawrence, Nez Perce Tribe participated via telephone.

LEGISLATION

Legislative Updates

Sharon Kiefer provided a report on the following new bills.

HB 467 Ranch, Farm, and Forest Protection Act creating a state income tax credit for voluntary conservation easement (Appendix 41, Exhibit 17).

08-20 Commissioner Budge moved and Commissioner Wright seconded a motion TO SUPPORT HB467 AND TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN TO SPEAK IN FAVOR OF THIS BILL. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

HB 471 Creates a new buyers license and permit for trout, salmon and wildlife, creates purchasing provisions, and creates fees (Appendix 41, Exhibit 18).

08-21 Commissioner McDermott moved and Commissioner Barowsky seconded a MOTION TO MONITOR HB 471. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

HB 459 Revises procedures for negotiated rulemaking. This bill modifies the foundation for negotiated rulemaking in Title 67. The Commission does not conduct negotiated rulemaking (Appendix 41, Exhibit 19).

08-22 Commissioner Power moved and Commissioner Budge seconded a motion NOT TO SUPPORT HB 459. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Other Legislative Updates

Status updates on SB 1373, SB 1374, HB 472, and HB 473 were given by Ms. Kiefer. Ms. Kiefer noted that SB 1374 replaces Department sponsored bill SB 1266.

The State shooting range noise standard legislation has been given an RS number and Representative Eskridge will submit for a print hearing next week in the House Resources and Environment Committee. Staff will continue to work with Representative Eskridge.

Previously Discussed Bill Update

S1280 – increase fee for nonresident hound hunter permit.

S1281-increase fee for nonresident mountain lion tag

S1286-broaden requirement for archery ed. certification

S1295-hunting closure on enclosed public lands

S1313-makes import and fee shooting/spearing of domestic cervidae a felony

S1312-volunteer criteria

S1285-nonresident boat certification

Ms. Kiefer noted that no hearing has been scheduled yet on any of these bills.

Ms. Kiefer noted that Department staff is working on a Grizzly Bear presentation to be presented on February 25, 2008 (tentative) to the Senate Resources Committee. Senator Schroeder is working with staff.

Department sponsored bills that have passed the Senate:

SB 1265

SB 1267

SB 1268

SB1269

PowerBelt Bullet Clarification

Dallas Burkhalter, Deputy Attorney General briefed the Commission on clarification of PowerBelt bullets. Mr. Burkhalter had questions from the manufacturer of the PowerBelt bullets to determine if the bullets are legal in Idaho muzzleloader-only hunts because of the prohibition against sabots.

The Department's original intent for recommending a prohibition against sabots was to address the issue of light weight bullets allowing for increased velocity and range. The intent was not to address the style or material of the gas seal.

An often and commonly applied definition of sabot is: "**support for projectile in weapon:** a sleeve placed around a projectile so that it can be fired from a weapon with a larger bore. The sabot drops away shortly after the projectile is fired."

Director Groen stated that this definition would meet the Department's original intent for recommending a prohibition against sabots, and is more easily understood by

muzzleloader hunters. No Commission action is required; rather a simple concurrence from the Commission on the original intent for prohibiting sabots would allow us to disseminate a clarification to all Department staff and stakeholders relative to the all-lead PowerBelt bullet.

MISCELLANEOUS

Draft Wolf Management Population Plan

Jim Unsworth, provided an update on the draft Wolf Management Population Plan. Mr. Unsworth noted that staff is currently reviewing comments received on the draft plan, are working on comments from the Commission, and will have a review draft for the Commission on February 15th. A near final draft will be sent to Commissioners on February 22nd for review and ready for the March 6th Commission meeting.

Mr. Unsworth noted that sportsmen will be provided information regarding proposed regulations and future harvest seasons at season setting meetings scheduled in February throughout the state.

Interim Strategy for Managing Separation Between Bighorn Sheep and Domestic Sheep in Idaho

Mr. Unsworth provided an update on the interim strategy for managing separation between bighorn sheep and domestic sheep in Idaho (Appendix 41, Exhibit 20). Mr. Unsworth noted that Governor Otter directed the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the Idaho State Department of Agriculture to put together and co-chair a working group to assist the state in the developing of a state-wide strategy for managing the interaction between bighorn sheep herds and domestic sheep on state and federal lands in Idaho.

The Department will ask for the Commission's endorsement of the interim strategy on the legislative conference call scheduled for February 14.

Adjournment

The Commission call ended at 9:10 am.

Cameron Wheeler
Chairman

Cal Groen
Secretary